

Application No. 10/762,165  
Reply to Office Action dated January 4, 2006  
Amendment dated February 3, 2006

**REMARKS**

This is in response to the Restriction Requirement dated January 4, 2006. The Examiner requires an election between Group I, Claims 1-16, drawn to a self-clutching o-ring, classified in class 118, subclass 728, or Group II, Claims 17-24, drawn to method for retaining O-ring pads for supporting semiconductor wafers, classified in class 118, subclass 728.

Applicant hereby elects Group I, Claims 1-16. This election is made without traverse.

Claims 1-7 and 9-14 are amended. New claims 25-32 are added. Claims 8, 15 and 16 are canceled without prejudice to reduce the government fees for presentation of additional claims 25-32.

Claims 1-7 and 9-14 are amended for various reasons unrelated to patentability of the claims. "Self clutching O ring" in the preambles is changed to "Apparatus" to be consistent with dependent claims that include other elements besides the O ring. A structure is added to claim 2, as the proper form for claiming a recess. In claims 4, 5, 12 and 13, the phrase "adapted to" is used to indicate that the recited limitations are characteristics of the O ring, and not method steps. A feature deleted from claim 1 is added to re-written claim 7, the original features of which are canceled without prejudice. Claims 9 and 14 are amended for consistency of language and grammar. Claim 10 is rewritten to depend on claim 2 for compactness, and features of claim 10 already included in claim 2 are deleted from claim 10.

The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this communication to Duane Morris deposit account No. 16-0479.

Respectfully submitted,

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